confectioning of jumbo rolls of photosensitized materials. There is no move to delicense this activity.

Research on Ayurvedic treatise in Sanskrit for Development of Ayurvedic medicines to treat incurable diseases

*371. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up any research project on old Sanskrit treatise of Ayurveda to find cure for cancer, heart ailments and other incurable diseases;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) in what manner Government would explore the possibility of conducting such researches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) to (d) The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, an autonomous body under the Ministry have collected references from medical and allied Sanskrit literature on about 20 diseases, including cancer and heart diseases. The data collected is screened and tried clinically wherever feasible and practicable.

Bed strength of Safdarjung and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospitals

*372. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total bed strength of Safdarjung and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospitals in Delhi at present and what is the actual requirement estimated on the basis of patients admitted during the last six months in each of these hospitals;

(b) what was their bed strength during the years 1970 and 1980, separately; and

(c) whether any fresh review has been made in this regard; if so, how Government propose to meet the shortage if any of bed strength in these hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) The bed strength and the number of patients admitted during last six months in Safdarjung Hospital and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital are as under:—

	Bed Strength	Number of patients admitted during last six months
Safdarjung Hospital	1357 and 174 bassinets	32,075
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital	800	17,496

The bed strength of both Safdarjung Hospital and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital is inadequate in relation to demand as reflected in number of patients admitted.

(b) The bed strength of Safdarjung Hospital and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital during 1970 and 1980 were as under:—

	1970	1980
Safdarjung Hospital	1207	1207
Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital	679	800

(c) The Government have reviewed the problems arising from over-crowding and congestion in Central Govt. Hospitals and have initiated several measures. These include:—

(i) Establishment of hospitals in Peripheral areas.

(ii) Improvement of O.P.D. facilities in Safdarjung Hospital.

(iii) Improvement of efficiency of indoor case.

Rise in Newsprint price by the Mysore Paper Mills

@*373. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mysore Paper Mills, a public sector unit, has recently raised the newsprint price;

(b) if so, what was the increase per tonne and what is the price now; and the number of times the price of newsprint has been increased and by how much during the last three years; and

(c) what is the reason for the present increase?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House [*See* Appendix CLIV, Annexure No. 93]

(c) Increase in the price of newsprint has been reported to be mainly on account of increase in input costs.

Reopening of the units of the Metal Box India Ltd.

*374. SHRI B.L. PANWAR:
DR. ABRAR AHMED KHAN.

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether various units of Metal Box India Ltd. are lying closed at present; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to reopen them and to protect the interest of over 6500 employees of the company?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Eight out of the nine units of Metal Box India Ltd., were closed down between November 1987 and January 1988. Subsequently, two units in Bombay were reopened in July 1988 and the Madras unit commenced operations in April, 1989.

(b) M/s. Metal Box India Ltd., has made a reference before the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction in January 1988 under Section 15 of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. The matter is pending before BIFR

Tidal Power Project in the Rann of Kutch

*375. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 190 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 31st July, 1989 and state:

(a) whether the techno-economic evaluation of the feasibility report for the tidal power project in Rann of Kutch as also the further investigations and studies on certain aspects of the project have since been done;

(b) if so, what are the details of the findings of the studies and final decision taken thereon;

(c) what are the salient features of the project;

(d) whether projects for coastal areas other than Rann of Kutch have also been considered; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the estimated cost per unit of power to be so generated?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) While initiating techno-economic evaluation of the feasibility report of the tidal power project in Rann of Kutch in 1988-89, it was decided to carry out further investigations and studies, which are still in progress.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

@Previously Starred Question 213 transferred on the 16th May, 1990